

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Innovation Industries, Inc.

#### Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

#### Innovation Industries Begins Journey Toward Lean Transformation

##### Client Profile:

Innovation Industries is a manufacturer of control panels and door protection devices for elevators. The manufacturing facility, located in Russellville, Arkansas, employs approximately 113 people.

##### Situation:

Innovation Industries realized that the key to remaining competitive in the current business environment is the flexibility and willingness to make rapid changes to the business model. The company also realized that transformations should be made in a context that emphasizes continuous evolution of present and future changes. Lean Enterprise practices align perfectly with this philosophy. Innovation Industries decided to adopt a lean manufacturing culture and asked the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, formerly known as the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network (the Network), for assistance.

##### Solution:

AMS began by providing lean training to Innovation Industries' managers and employees. Next, the company's management team and a group of select employees completed AMS' Principles of Lean Manufacturing workshop.

Once every employee at Innovation Industries understood the fundamentals of lean manufacturing, the AMS led the development of a value stream map detailing the processes of the company's major product line. By identifying waste, non-value-added activities, and process inefficiencies, the team was able to envision a more productive "future state." With AMS training and assistance, the Innovation Industries team developed a future state map and an action plan to implement targeted changes. The AMS led several activities to make these changes, and as a result, the company is saving costs through labor and inventory reductions. Better yet, Innovation Industries now has a foundation for continuous improvement.

##### Results:

- \* Saving inventory costs of \$10,000.
- \* Saving labor costs of \$20,000.
- \* Invested \$15,000 to improve workforce practices and employee skills.
- \* Avoided unnecessary investment of \$250,000.

##### Testimonial:

"We are very pleased at the professionalism and expertise displayed by the personnel working for the Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions. Becoming a Lean Enterprise is not a one-time event and we are pleased that we know we can count on the Network for assistance and direction."

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

Paul Horney, Chief Executive Officer